

37. *CHIONANTHUS RAMIFLORUS* ROXB. VAR. *PENINSULARIS* RAVIKUMAR & LAKSHMANAN, AN EXTENDED DISTRIBUTION TO ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

The genus *Chionanthus* L., Family Oleaceae, is primarily tropical, with a few species in temperate China and North America. In India, it is represented by 10 species (Srivastava and Kapoor 1991).

During the study of the herbarium specimens deposited in PBL, a sheet of *Chionanthus ramiflorus* Roxb. with notes "particularly large fruit" written by Ruth Kiew was found. On further scrutiny, it was identified as *C. ramiflorus* var. *peninsularis* Ravikumar & Lakshmanan which is so far known to occur along streams of evergreen forests and sholas in the Western Ghats (Ravikumar and Lakshmanan 1989). Hence, this is a case of extended distribution in India from the Western Ghats to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

A brief description and illustration is provided to enable identification of this species.

Chionanthus ramiflorus Roxb. var. *peninsularis* Ravikumar et Lakshmanan Bull. Bot. Surv. India, 31(1-4): 163. 1989.

Trees. Leaves elliptic or elliptic-lanceolate, cuneate at base, acute or shortly acuminate at apex, 2.5-1.3 x 1.2-6 cm., entire to undulate along margins, coriaceous, glabrous, light green above, pale green beneath; lateral veins 8-12 pairs; petiole 1-3.5 cm., glabrous. Inflorescence 11-14 cm long, stout. Fruits ellipsoid, oblique, acute to short acuminate at apex, 3-3.5 x 1.4-1.7 cm, smooth, glossy green when young, brownish-black when mature. Seeds 1-2 in number; stalk 4-8 mm long, stout, jointed.

Specimen examined: North Nicobar, Car Nicobar, Tee Top, Sea level, 25.ii.1976, N.G. Nair 3534 (PBL).

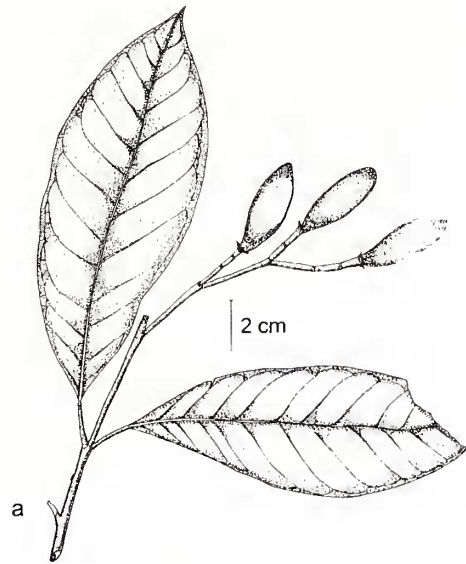


Fig. 1: *Chionanthus ramiflorus* Roxb. var. *peninsularis* Ravikumar & Lakshmanan, a. Habit

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38. *THOTTEA PAUCIFIDA* DING HOU, FAMILY ARISTOLOCHIACEAE,
A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA

Thottea is an Indo-Malayan genus with distinctive leaf architecture. It is chiefly distributed in shady places of tropical low land forests. About 26 species have been reported worldwide of which 4 occur in India (Ding Hou in Fl. Malesiana 10: 73. 1984). In Andaman and Nicobar

Islands, it is represented by a single species *Thottea tomentosa* (Bl.) Ding Hou. (Vasudeva Rao 1986, Mathew 1988.)

An unidentified species of *Thottea* collected from Rutland of South Andaman was found deposited in PBL.

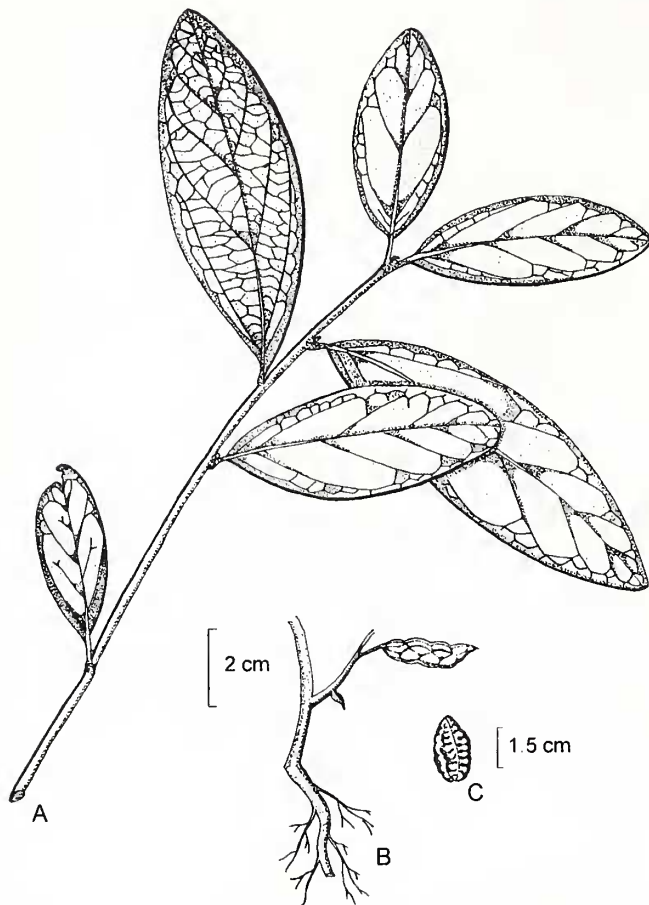


Fig. 1: *Thottea paucifida*, A. Habit, B. Twig with capsule, C. Seed

The species was later identified as *Thottea paucifida* Ding Hou; earlier known to occur in Borneo. Ding Hou in his revision of Family Aristolochiaceae states that it has been collected just once from the banks of a stream flowing through stands of Rubber and other trees.

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39. *JUNCUS SPUMOSUS* NOLTIE (JUNCACEAE), A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA

During plant exploration in Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh, we collected an interesting species of *Juncus*, which was kindly identified by Dr. F. Miyamoto of Tokyo University of Agriculture, Japan, to be *Juncus spumosos* Noltie. He also pointed out that the species constituted a new record for India.

A brief description and line drawing based on our own collections and relevant data are given to facilitate identification in the field.

Material Examined: Dibang Valley, Mayodia Pass, 2635 m, 20.viii.2000, M. Bhaumik & M.K. Pathak

This species is reported for the first time in India from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. A brief description and illustration is provided for identification.

Thottea paucifida Ding Hou, *Blumea* 27: 324, 1981; *Flora Malesiana* 10: 73, 1984.

Undershrubs. Leaves alternate coriaceous, elliptic to slightly obovate, 4-10 x 2-4.5 cm, cuneate, obtuse to slightly cordate at base, margin entire, apex acute to obtuse, densely villous below, glabrous above. Basal nerves 3; lateral nerves 4-5 pairs, elevated below, reticulate, obscure above. Petiole c. 3.5 mm long, angular, twisted at apex, glabrous. Seeds ellipsoid, c. 3 x 1.5 mm, transversely rugose.

Note: Ding Hou in his revision states "Capsules Unknown". Capsules and seeds are described here for the first time.

Specimen examined: South Andaman, Rutland, 19.vii.1986. J.L. Ellis, 12305 (PBL).

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Juncus spumosos Noltie in *Edinburg J. Bot.* 51(2): 139, 1994.

Rhizomaceous herb, borne singly, sometimes with one or two offspring. Rhizome short, knobby. Stem 30-75 cm long, terete, arching over. Stem leaves 3-5, 7-18.5 cm long, 1.5-5 mm broad, channeled throughout or at least on upper part, 'V' shaped in cross section. Leaf sheaths gradually narrowed into blades. Ligules absent. Inflorescence terminal, 13-21 headed, 3-12 flowered with chestnut brown to deep glossy brown capitula.